

distributed to potential interested parties. Information gained will be used in the plan/EIS. No public scoping meetings will be held. All comments received will become part of the public record and copies of comments, including names, addresses and telephone numbers provided by respondents, may be released for public inspection.

The EIS and accompanying plan options will guide the management of the Cleetwood Cove parking area, trail and dock area, and will describe a range of alternatives formulated to address major issues relating to visitor use and resource management and protection. A "no action" alternative will be included; other likely alternatives could include ones with an emphasis on recreation, a natural and cultural resources emphasis and/or some balanced combination of use and resource preservation. The environmental impacts associated with each alternative will be analyzed.

The draft EIS is expected to be available for public review by the fall of 1996; the final EIS and Record of Decision are expected to be completed approximately six months later.

The responsible official is Stanley T. Albright, Field Director, Pacific West Area, National Park Service.

DATES: Written comments about the scope of issues and alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS should be received no later than August 23, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning the plan/EIS should be sent to: Superintendent, Crater Lake National Park, P.O. Box 7, Crater Lake, OR 97604-0007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Crater Lake National Park, at the above address or at telephone number (541) 594-2211.

Dated: July 9, 1996.

William C. Walters,
*Deputy Field Director, Pacific West Area,
National Park Service.*
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Notice of Availability of Final General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, Gooding and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190, as amended), the National Park Service (NPS), Department of the Interior, has

prepared a Final General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) that describes and analyzes a proposal and two alternatives for the future management, use, and development of Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument.

The Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument was released for public review on November 17, 1995 (60 FR 222, p. 57716; 60 FR 229, p. 61270). The public review period was extended to 113 days, ending March 8, 1996 (61 FR 25, p. 4483; 61 FR 42, p. 8061). A total of 63 letters of comment were received during the review period, and a total of 60 people participated in public meetings in Hagerman, Twin Falls, and Boise, Idaho.

Because of the nature of the comments received on the Draft GMP/EIS, the Final GMP/EIS was prepared in an abbreviated format pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 1503.4. To substantially reduce printing costs, the full text of the draft document has not been reprinted, and the Final GMP/EIS must be used as a companion document with the draft. The Final GMP/EIS responds to public comments and includes copies of the comment letters, clarifying text changes in response to the public comments, and factual corrections. Changes made in the Final GMP/EIS (a) clarify important points regarding hunting, road and trail access, and other issues, and (b) delete services or facilities from the proposed action that can be accomplished through partnerships or the private sector and therefore will not require federal funds, further reducing costs.

Based upon the analysis contained in the Draft GMP/EIS, and taking into account all the comments received during the public review, alternative 2 remains the proposed action. As described in the Draft GMP/EIS and modified somewhat in the Final GMP/EIS, alternative 2 along with statements of the purpose and significance of the monument, management objectives, desired future conditions, management zoning, and interpretive themes constitutes the proposed General Management Plan for the monument. Alternative 2 would provide a plan for comprehensively meeting the monument's legislative mandate to provide a center for paleontological research and education, including the construction of a fully functional research center and museum. The National Park Service would perform professional research, educational, and

resource management functions as peers and partners with various persons, institutions, and organizations that would help to staff, fund, equip, and implement these functions.

Two other alternatives were examined in detail. The no-action alternative would continue the present course of action with only minor changes from existing conditions. It would provide only for basic resource stewardship and limited interpretation functions and would not meet the monument's legislative mandate. In alternative 1, the present course of action would change only as much as necessary to meet the minimum requirements of the monument's legislative mandate. A research center and museum would be built and operated at a basic level, but most research and education functions would depend on non-NPS sources.

Major impact topics assessed for the proposed action and the alternatives include natural and cultural resources (including paleontological resources), the socioeconomic environment, facilities and infrastructure, access, visitor experience, National Park Service programs, and cumulative effects.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The no-action period on this Final GMP/EIS will extend for 30 days from the date the notice of availability is published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register. After the 30-day period, a Record of Decision is expected to be signed by NPS representatives. The responsible officials are Pacific West Area Field Director Stanley Albright, Deputy Field Director William Walters, and Superintendent Neil King.

For copies of the Final GMP/EIS or for further information, please contact: Superintendent, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, P.O. Box 570, 221 N. State Street, Hagerman, Idaho 83332; telephone (208) 837-4793. Copies will also be available at: Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC; at National Park Service, Columbia-Cascades System Support Office, 909 First Ave., Seattle, WA; and at public libraries in the Hagerman area.

Dated: July 11, 1996.

William C. Walters,
*Deputy Field Director, Pacific West Area,
National Park Service.*
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